

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6160

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR YO US

SUBJ: EDITORIAL REACTION TO "SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE"

REF: BELGRADE 2160

1. TWO EDITORIALS IN YUGOSLAV PRESS REGARDING "SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE" TAKE LINE THAT SUPER POWERS DO NOT CONTROL SMALL STATES LIKE YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT DECISIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO MASS CIRCULATION "VECERNJE NOVOSTI" OF APR 2 SONNENFELDT ADVISED EUROPE "THAT THE DIVISION INTO SPHERES OF INTEREST IS A GUARANTEE OF STABILITY ON THE OLD CONTINENT". MAGAZINE "EKONOMSKA POLITIKA" OF APR 5 SUMMARIZES EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN AND SAYS THAT SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE OF AFFAIR DOES NOT ALTER THE ESSENTIALS OF THE SONNENFELDT ARGUMENT. MAIN QUESTION IS WHY THE STORY WAS LEAKED. EDITORIAL SAYS THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT: (1) THAT THE LEAK IS PART OF BARGAINING WITH THE SOVIET UNION OVER SPHERES OF INTEREST IN EUROPE, OR (2) THAT IT WAS DONE BY AMERICAN CONSERVATIVES WHO BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD MORE ACTIVELY PROMOTE CHANGE IN

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EASTERN EUROPE. REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR THE LEAK,

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT IT IS WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT THE SUPERPOWERS CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS IN SMALLER COUNTRIES. BOTH EDITORIALS CLOSE BY QUOTING TITO ON YUGOSLAVIA'S STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE (REFTEL).

3. WHILE IT HAS CARRIED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT, BELGRADE DAILY "POLITIKA" ON APR 4 CARRIED FRONT PAGE CARTOON ENTITLED "SONNENFELDT'S INTRIGUE". IT SHOWED A MAN ON HIS KNEES WITH A GHOSTLY SHAPE LABELED "THE SPIRIT OF YALTA" COMING OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

4. COMMENT: WHILE DENIALS AND CLARIFICATIONS ARE BEING CIRCULATED HERE, INITIAL EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN CLEARLY MADE AN IMPRESSION. EDITORIAL REACTION, AT LEAST, IS TO DISCOUNT RELAVANCE OF US POLICY, AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR, AND (IMPLICITLY) SOVIET POLICY BY ASSERTING THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS WILLING AND ABLE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN COURSE. SWEITZER

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